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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/597,434

03/25/2008

Stephan Steinke

9771-007US

1916

79526

7590

05/27/2009

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EXAMINER

ZARROLI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/27/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/597,434	Applicant(s) STEINKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael C. Zarroli	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 February 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/25/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 14, 15 & 24 objected to because of the following informalities:

Antecedent problems. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-15, 19, 22, 25-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by applicant cited Wojtacki et al.

Wojtacki discloses a modular electrical jack connector system 2 comprising: at least one jack connector housing 6; and at least one therein inserted jack connector-subassembly 4; wherein the jack connector housing is formed for the purpose of modular adjacent stringing to at least one further jack connector housing fig. 1; wherein each jack connector housing comprises a front coupling side fig. 5 having at least two openings (e.g. 40, 42) which openings are disposed one above the other

for the purpose of receiving a variety of electrical plug connectors (claim 1 lines 42-43) through the front coupling side and an oppositely disposed with respect to the front coupling side rear side fig. 1 for the purpose of inserting at least one jack connector subassembly; and wherein each jack connector subassembly 4 comprises a longitudinal strip-like carrier 14 having a substantially right-angled profile fig. 12 and having on the top and on the bottom respectively a series of extrusion-coated or injection-molded jack terminals 28 which extrusion-coated or injection-molded jack terminals embody at a front end of the strip-like carrier uncoated and bent-back cantilevered contact portions fig. 14 which uncoated and bent-back cantilevered contact portions are disposed aligned in an upper opening 40 and/or into a lower opening 42 of the jack connector housing.

Claim 2 Wojtacki discloses that each jack connector housing is formed out of a plastic material and for the purpose of receiving respectively one jack connector subassembly fig. 1.

Claim 3 Wojtacki discloses that respectively one metallic shield 10 is inserted between individual adjacently strung jack connector housings fig. 1.

Claim 4 Wojtacki discloses that the strip-like carrier 14 is modularly constructed out of two stackable carrier halves fig. 15 wherein each half comprises an extrusion-coated or injection-molded arrangement of jack terminals.

Claim 5 Wojtacki discloses that a metallic shield plate 330 is disposed sandwich-like between two carrier halves.

Claim 6 Wojtacki discloses that the extrusion-coating of the jack connectors up to the uncoated area of the contact portions forms a bump or knuckle-like thickening (fig. 9 at 222).

Claim 7 Wojtacki discloses that the strip-like carrier modular is modularly constructed out of two stackable identical carrier halves fig. 13 and wherein each carrier half respectively comprises a complementarily formed engaging device fig. 15.

Claim 8 Wojtacki discloses that for the purpose of signal conditioning the jack connector subassembly comprises correspondingly adapted component modules which correspondingly adapted component modules are disposed at least adjacently with respect to a top surface of the strip-like carrier fig. 2A.

Claim 9 Wojtacki discloses that a variety of different conditioning component modules 22, 24 is connectable with the jack connector subassembly.

Claim 10 Wojtacki discloses that the jack connector subassembly comprises a variety of signal pins 20 which signal pins extend outwards on one side fig. 1.

Claim 11 Wojtacki discloses that the jack connector subassembly comprises pins for an inline power supply fig. 2A.

Claims 12-13 Wojtacki discloses that the jack connector subassembly comprises two separated carrier plates 18 and particularly printed circuit boards for the purpose of mechanically holding together the components and their electrical circuitry encompassed by the jack connector subassembly fig. 2A wherein the carrier plates is disposed the strip-like carrier.

Claim 14 Wojtacki discloses that the carrier plates 18 at least one electrical/electronic components encompassing box-type module 22, 24.

Claim 15 Wojtacki discloses that the outside of the carrier plates are disposed electrical/electronic components 24.

Claim 19 Wojtacki discloses that the jack connector housing or housings is/are disposed on at least one earth plate 12 and particularly a printed circuit board which printed circuit board comprises openings fig. 1 for the purpose of receiving the out of each jack connector subassembly guided signal pins 20.

Claim 22 Wojtacki discloses that the jack connector housing or housings is or are encompassed by an external shield housing 8.

Claim 25 Wojtacki discloses that stringing together the jack connector housings said jack connector housings comprise respectively complementarily developed fastening devices (fig. 2A various).

Claim 26 Wojtacki discloses that at least intermediately strung and/or stringable jack connector housings are identically constructed fig. 1.

Regarding independent claims 27-29 their rejections are encompassed in the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 30 Wojtacki discloses that the strip-like carrier is modularly constructed out of two stackable identical carrier halves fig. 2 and wherein each carrier half respectively comprises complementary engaging means fig. 2A.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 16-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wojtacki et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Boutros.

Wojtacki does not disclose LED pins or wave guide guiding channels.

Boutros discloses right angle LED pins 20 whose light is guidable via a wave guide 32 to the front coupling side fig. 3 and guiding channels 40 contain the wave guides. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector housing of Wojtacki et al with LEDs and wave guides (or light guides) as taught by Boutros. The motivation for this addition to Wojtacki is well known in the art and would be to allow some type of sturdy indication for the modular jack connector stringing arrangement.

7. Claims 20-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wojtacki et al as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of De Young et al. Wojtacki does not disclose that the "earth plate" is multi layered and carrying electronic components.

De Young discloses a multi layered (col. 2 lines 65-66) earth plate or board 14 with traces fig. 1. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the “earth plate” of Wojtacki to be multi layered and contain traces (for structure and better noise reduction value) as taught by Boutros.

8. Claims 23-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wojtacki et al.

Wojtacki does not disclose using soldering to connect the two part external shield 8 to the jack connector housing.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the tried and true method of soldering to connect the external shield to the jack housing. The claim would have been obvious because the technique for improving a particular class of devices was part of the ordinary capabilities of a person of ordinary skill in the art, in view of the teaching of the technique for improvement in other situations.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit
2839

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